

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claim 16 has been amended and a new claims 40 and 41 have been added. Amended claim 16 and new claims 40 and 41 are supported throughout the specification and drawings at least, for example, at pages 10-12 and Fig. 7. Further, new claims 42-52, which recite features similar to the features recited in claims 17-19, 21-26, 34 and 35, have been added. Also, claims 19 and 34 have been amended to correct typographical errors, and claims 34 and 35 have been amended to depend from claim 22. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by these claim amendments.

Finally, Applicants have canceled claims 20, 27-33 and 36-39 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 16-23, 25-36, 38 and 39

Claims 16-23, 25-36, 38 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,867,961 to Choi ("Choi"). As noted above, claims 20, 27-33, 36, 38 and 39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants traverse the rejection of the remaining claims.

Addressing claim 16, Choi does not disclose or suggest at least first and second brackets which are fixed to the horizontal rotation shaft, wherein the first brackets supports the perpendicular opening and closing shaft, and the second bracket has the connecting member inserted therein, as recited in the claim.

Choi discloses a portable computer having a connecting member, i.e., a *video signal transmission member* 30, tilting parts 40a and swiveling part 40b of the hinge part 40 and the hinge accommodating part 24a. The hinge part 40 may include a bracket which supports the tilting parts 40a shown in Fig. 4. However, the connecting member 30 is not inserted in the bracket of the hinge part 40. The connecting member 30 is only disposed on the tilting parts 40a shown in Fig. 4.

On the other hand, Applicants' folding electric device includes a first bracket 103 supporting the perpendicular opening and closing shaft 105 in the second bracket 102 having the connecting member 106 inserted therein. Accordingly, claim 16 is not anticipated by Choi and is therefore patentable over the prior art.

Claims 17-19, 21-23, 25, 26, 34 and 35, which depend from claim 16, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence.

Claims 24 and 37

Claims 24 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Choi and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,813,146 to our Haraguchi *et al.* ("Haraguchi"). As noted above, claim 37 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 24.

The combination of Choi and Haraguchi does not disclose or suggest at least first and second brackets which are fixed to the horizontal rotation shaft, wherein the first brackets supports the perpendicular opening and closing shaft, and the second bracket has the connecting member inserted therein, as recited in claim 16 and incorporated in claim 24 by virtue of its

dependence from claim 16. As established above, Choi does not disclose these features. The Examiner relies on Haraguchi merely to disclose a mobile phone.

Haraguchi, however, does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Choi. In fact, Haraguchi does not even address the construction of the electrical interconnection between the upper half portion and the lower half portion of the apparatus. Since Haraguchi does not disclose or suggest the features deficient in Choi, even if one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made had been motivated to combine the references, the combination would still not result in the claimed features.

Thus, claim 24 is patentable over the combination of Choi and Haraguchi.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claim 40, which depends from claim 16 and is therefore patentable at least by virtue of its dependence. Applicants have also added new independent claim 41, which recites features similar to the features recited in claim 16 and is therefore patentable for similar reasons. New dependent claims 42-52, which depend from claim 41, have also been added and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 41.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/801,575

Atty. Docket No. Q78525

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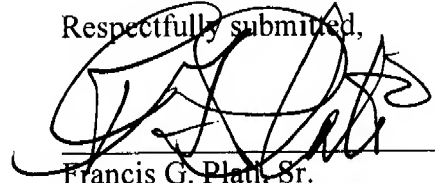
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis G. Platt, Sr.', written over a horizontal line.

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